

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the application contains claims directed to the following groups of invention:

Group I, claims 1-31 and 57, drawn to authentication in a generic system, classified in class 713, subclass 202;

Group II, claims 32-44, drawn to an electronic voting system, classified in class 705, subclass 12; and

Group III, claims 45-52, drawn to an electronic dating system, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

In reply to the Examiner's indication that restriction for examination purposes is required, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, including claims 1-31 and 57. Furthermore, Applicants submit that claims 53 and 56, which the Examiner has not listed in any of the identified groups of invention, should be included within Group I.

The Examiner further asserts that the application contains claims directed to the following species of invention:

Species A: Claim 54, drawn to an electronic voting system, classified in class 705, subclass 12; and

Species B: Claim 55, drawn to an electronic dating system, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

In reply to the Examiner's indication that Applicants must elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, Applicants hereby elect Species A, including

claim 54. Applicants note that independent claim 53 and dependent claim 56 are generic, and are properly considered as part of the invention of elected Group I.

In view of the above Reply to Restriction Requirement and election, Applicants submit that claims 1-31, 53, 56, and 57 are now subject to examination on the merits and that claims 54 and 55 are subject to possible rejoinder upon allowance of generic claim 53.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees. Our check in the amount of \$120.00 covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1) is also attached.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted



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